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Tues. Nov. 13, 2007 -- Docket 06-121/

I called several times, was put on hold, and after 20 minutes of waiting [twice] was disconnected.

You have elected to comment on Media Ownership Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking  
Docket - 06-121

Dear FCC commissioners,

Thanks for the opportunity to respond to the issue of Media Ownership and your further notice of proposed rulemaking, docket -6-121.

As a citizen of Seattle, I came to the hearings held at Town Hall last Friday night along with 1000 or more other people. Because there was such a long line and the testimony went on for hours past midnight, I was unable to register a comment.

However, I would like to say that I believe this is an issue of grave public concern.

I would concur with the comments made by FCC Commissioners Copps and Adelstein that allowing further media consolidation, allowing greater concentration of ownership by single corporations in individual markets, takes U.S. media --- and our citizenry --- in the wrong direction.

The new rules allowing this could even possibly take us in a dangerous direction. Here in Washington state we've seen many, many TV stations and radio stations bought out by larger companies. We've seen many newspapers, local newspapers, dailies and weeklies go under. That's in general a bad thing --- and media consolidation may be one factor worsening that trend.

During our last windstorm here, it was very, very difficult to get information, vital information about the power outage --- which lasted as long as 10 days for us and up to 2 weeks for some people --- from our newspapers. There were quite a number of people who became ill and even died as a result of this loss of service.

The Seattle Times reported on the storm, of course, but not so much from the perspective of the many suburban and exurban communities outside Seattle, because the power outages didn't affect Seattle proper to a very great extent. So, on the Eastside of King County and other counties south of

us and north of us, there wasn't a lot of info. There was only one radio station with a few 'cowboy' type commentators giving citizens information about where gas stations were open, grocery stores were open, and what --- if anything -- our utilities were doing to bring power back.

Because Pacific Northwesterners are so nice and tolerant, there wasn't a huge uproar over it. But this is the kind of thing --- in a crisis --- where local media can make a big difference in terms of informing the citizenry.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg. On any given day, so many issues --- you name it -- transportation, health care, school budget funding --- are vital to us, and we need a free and open press to get all the opinions and news out there.

From a political standpoint, I think it's important to allow a free flow of news and information, opinions and perspectives on all the issues.

From an economic standpoint, it's important to allow diverse media outlets to compete with the larger media, so that we can protect a diversity of opinions and information of all kinds in this country. That is what our country was founded on. The Federal Communications Commission was established with this in mind, to protect against monopoly taking place in corporate media ownership.

I do not believe the media should be about protecting large corporate media concerns. We need more diversity, more local input and local news --- that's what America is all about; that's what free markets are all about. That's what an educated citizenry is about! What's what a free economy is about.

Please take into consideration the strong criticism your rule has provoked. Please listen to all the voices directed against this potential change in corporate media ownership.

I also concur with Washington State legislators who complained about the extremely short notice we citizens got about this hearing: Terribly insulting and inconsiderate.

However, I do appreciate your giving the public opportunity to comment, and I do appreciate your commissioners sitting through the many MANY hours of public testimony...and the many more hours involved in deliberating on this issue.

Please consider ALL these dissenting opinions.

Thanks so much.

F. Christina

A citizen in Kirkland, WA.

NOTE: The filing you are making is a public filing.

Any information that you submit will be available to the general public.

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